

**STATE SENATOR • IRMA CLARK-COLEMAN • 3RD DISTRICT**

# **Clark-Coleman Press Release**

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## **CLARK-COLEMAN NAMED TO CHERRY EDUCATION COMMISSION**

**Senator Picked to Help Increase Michigan Grads**

(LANSING) – Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed State Senator Irma Clark-Coleman (D-Detroit) to a Commission charged with finding ways to double the percentage of Michigan citizens who earn college degrees.

Headed by Lt. Gov. John Cherry, the Cherry Commission on Higher Education and Economic Growth boasts 40 of the top education advocates in the state. Sen. Clark-Coleman, the Minority Vice Chairman of the Senate Education committee, is a former member of the elected Detroit Board of Education and currently sits on the National Education Commission.

“I accept the Governor’s charge and will use all of my knowledge and experience to increase the number of our state graduates,” Sen. Clark-Coleman said. “There are some wonderful people on the commission and I am sure that as a group, we can get the job done.”

In a separate statement, Gov. Granholm said the Commission would also address the fall off in terms of students who express an interest in attending college, but then do not attend. Studies show that 90 percent of high school students express an interest in post-secondary education, yet only 41 percent go on to college or vocational school.

The Commission will hold its first organizational meeting on Wednesday, July 14. In September, the Commission will hold statewide hearings on the issue.

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*State Sen. Irma Clark-Coleman represents the 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District. She sits on the Banking & Financial Institutions, Education, Families & Human Services, and Senior Citizens & Veterans Affairs committees.*